



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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IDAHO'S EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

(Boise). More Idaho high school students are taking dual credit courses than ever before, and the state is making progress toward the goal that 60 percent of Idahoans ages 25-34 hold a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020. In its annual review of performance measures, the State Board of Education discussed performance on key benchmarks for public K-12 education and higher education.

The number of high school students enrolled in dual credit courses at an Idaho public higher education institution increased 70 percent from 2010 to 2014, while the number of credit hours attempted increased 60 percent in the same timeframe. The state did, however, experience a decrease in the go-on rate for the high school graduating class of 2013, which fell from 53 percent for the class of 2012 to 51 percent last year.

The review also focused on progress toward benchmarks for the state's colleges and universities. Overall degree production at the postsecondary institutions increased 30 percent from 2010 to 2013. This occurred despite the decrease in public funding for higher education during the recession. Additional key indicators showing improvement included an increase in the retention of students from year to year and an increase in degree production in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs.

"While we are starting to see some progress in key indicators, Idaho still has a long way to go in achieving our education objectives," said Emma Atchley, Board President. "The go-on rate for our high school graduates is not acceptable, and the Board is committed to increasing the number of students going on and completing a postsecondary program."

On the plus side, Idaho has seen a 5 percentage point increase toward the 60 percent goal established by the Board in 2010. In 2014, 42 percent of Idahoans in that age range had degrees or certificates.

To view a presentation on the statewide performance measures, and to see measures for each of the public higher education institutions visit

http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/meetings/board/archive/2014/10_15_16_14/02WORKSESSION.pdf

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